

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife**

**CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)
SURVEY INFORMATION
1998 - 2005**

1998 TB / CWD SURVEY

A survey of 502 hunter-killed deer was conducted in 1998 by NJDFW, USDA, NJDA. The sampling was focused on representing most of the deer range and historical sites of Bovine Tuberculosis, since both CWD and TB were surveyed. None of the deer submitted to USDA-NVSL tested positive for CWD or TB. The statistical analysis of these findings indicate that if chronic wasting disease was present it would be in less than one-half of one percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) of the state's adult herd, which was estimated at 150,000.

2002 CWD SURVEY

Brain stem samples (obex) were collected from 953 wild New Jersey white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in a chronic wasting disease (CWD) survey during the 2002-2003 November, December and early January deer firearm seasons. The survey was a joint effort of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Department of Agriculture and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) and East Stroudsburg University. The stations were selected based on representation of the over-all deer population densities and the presence of captive cervids (deer and elk) in the 14 square mile deer management units (DMUs). None of the 900 samples suitable for testing were positive for chronic wasting disease. The state's adult herd was estimated at 170,000, which yielded a similar 0.5% prevalence sensitivity with a slightly greater than 95% confidence level.

2003 HIGH RISK TARGETED CWD SURVEY

This survey was partially funded by the USDA-VS under a grant. All of the brainstem and or retropharyngeal lymph node samples, collected from 51 hunter-killed deer in the fall of 2003, 4 hunter-killed deer in 2002 and 52 captive deer slaughtered in 2003 from high-risk deer management units 29, 41 (Sussex County) and 120 (Warren County) were negative for chronic wasting disease (CWD) prions. The high-risk status of the units was based on illegal imports of deer to captive herds in those units from CWD endemic Wisconsin. The captive herd in Sussex County, Hardyston Twp. was placed under quarantine (still in effect) and a set of criteria developed to serve as an outline for future CWD-free herd certification. Statistical analysis indicates that if CWD was present it would have been in less than 1-5% of the estimated deer populations in DMUs 29 and 41 (1112 deer) and the estimated deer population in DMU 120 (308) at the 95% and 99% confidence levels, respectively. Five CWD symptomatic wild deer and three captive symptomatic elk (Kingwood twp., Hunterdon County) were also tested and found negative. This survey brought the total number of wild deer tested to 1,458 with an additional 52 high-risk captive deer and 3 high-risk captive elk also testing negative.

2004-05 TARGETED CWD SURVEY

This year's survey began with three slaughtered deer from the Hardyston twp. quarantined herd and will focus on sampling deer killed under the NJDFW Community Based Deer Management Program in which deer are being shot by commercial contractors for municipalities not able to open lands to public access during normal deer seasons. These programs began on January 4, 2005. This has resulted in the collection of suitable brain and lymph node samples from 368 deer. All of these samples tested for CWD were negative. This included 93 adult deer from the Duke Estate in Somerville, 41 from Princeton, 61 from Watchung Borough, 58 from Watchung Reservation, 62 from Millburn, 45 from Bridgewater, 4 from Montgomery, and one symptomatic deer each from Stillwater, Cokesbury, Fredon and Egg Harbor. 1,826 wild deer have been tested in New Jersey as of April 29, 2005 and an additional 83 high-risk captive deer and 5 high-risk captive elk have tested negative for CWD. All of the 72 deer and two American elk from the Hardyston herd, which was completely depopulated as of April 23, 2005, have tested negative for CWD.